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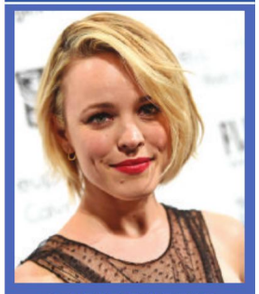


CANADIANS ARE ROCKING THE OSCARS

JESSICA ALLEN HOW TO LOOK SMART AT YOUR AWARDS PARTY

metroLIFE

THE MAN WITH A PLAN

The mayor aims to balance budget by funding 40% of $67M

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Mayor John Tory expects to present a plan to council that would balance the budget by funding about 40 per cent of the $67 million in new commitments politicians have made in the past year.

The poverty-reduction strategy will be a priority, he said in an interview Thursday in Metro's newsroom that covered everything from pedestrian safety to Trudeau to pizza. Tory declined to say what else will be prioritized, noting that will be clear when several motions are made at a budget meeting next week.

Tory makes no apologies for not funding everything, but cited a commitment to making "significant new investments in the life of the city" and keeping the property tax increase at the rate of inflation.

"I actually do reject — and this is me being honest — the notion that you just take the list and say, 'We should just do all of it,'" he said. "I think you will have a budget that reflects a balance between those who would say, as in prior times, over the last four years, 'Let's cut the TTC to sort of somehow make these numbers work better' and those who would say, 'Let's do everything. Let's raise taxes by whatever amount is required.'

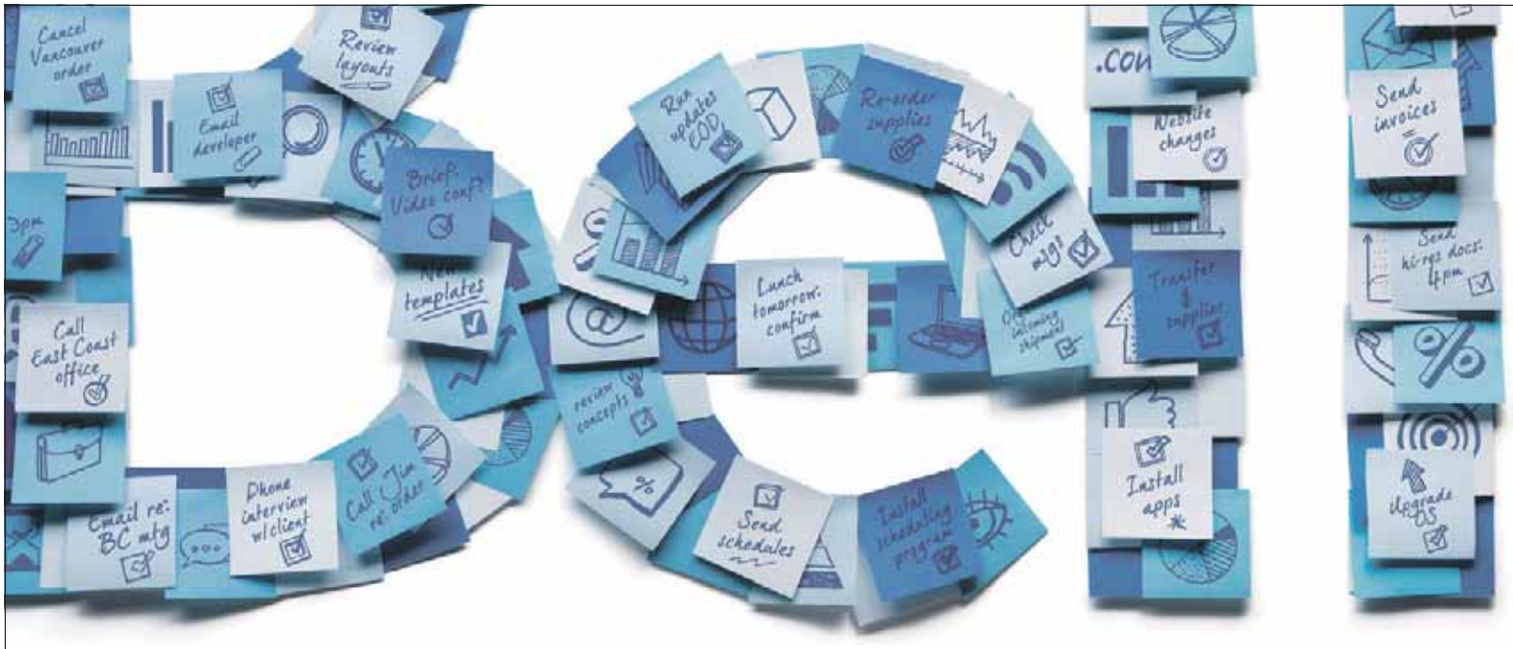
"I'm in neither of those camps."

The mayor said he's been working hard on the budget — "certainly" harder than Rob Ford ever did, and "probably harder than most mayors," he added.

Continued on Page 11

LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

metroTALKS Conversations with leaders | JOHN TORY ON UNEMPLOYMENT • CYCLISTS • HOUSING • PEDESTRIAN SAFETY • AND PIZZA



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Your essential daily news

Netflix will crack down on customers who use proxy services to view content not available in their countries. **Business**

ROADS

Hit-and-run shuts down DVP

The Don Valley Parkway was reopened Thursday from Don Mills Road to the Bayview/Bloor exit following a hit-and-run investigation early Thursday morning.

The southbound lanes were closed off by police around 3 a.m. and were reopened just before 7 a.m.

Toronto police Const. Clint Stibbe said a taxi struck a person on the roadway sometime before the closure.

Witnesses told police the driver remained on scene for approximately 10 minutes but left before officers arrived.

Police are now searching for both the taxi and the driver.

Maintenance in the area was originally expected to partially close the DVP overnight but the police investigation made the lanes unavailable for hours.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

The search is on for smart signals for T.O. streets

Toronto is looking for a company to build a new "smart signal" system to improve traffic flow.

The system will adjust the length of green lights depending on traffic volume in a bid to minimize congestion, according to a request for proposals. The are 350 smart signals in the city, but the system, built in the '90s, "has reached the end of its life," read a news release.

JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO

A cheerful crew in Lotto Max ball costumes made its way around Toronto Thursday, spreading the word about **Friday's $50-million jackpot.** LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Lotto-mania rubbing off

GAMING

Lotto Max sees boost after giant Powerball draw in U.S.

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Call it a case of jackpot fever.

All that buzz about a $1.6-billion Powerball jackpot south of the border is being credited with an uptick in lottery sales right here at home.

The Ontario Lottery and Gaming is reporting a five per cent increase in ticket sales for last week's Lotto Max and 649 draw. Numbers aren't in for the Friday draw, but the OLG has its fingers crossed — likely with good reason.

Normally, the biggest driver for lottery sales in Canada is the size of the jackpot. With Lotto Max, for example, ticket sales increase sharply every time the jackpot hits $40 million.

The prize is $50 million on Friday night with an estimated six Maxmillion prizes worth $1 million each.

"It's great advertising in any case," OLG spokeswoman Dita Kuhtey said about the recent Powerball craze. "It definitely gets people excited about lottery and big prizes."

The Powerball draw, which happened at midnight Thursday, yielded winners in Florida, Tennessee and California.

The lucky few did not immediately identify themselves, but they bought their tickets in Munford, a Tennessee town of about 6,000 people; the modest Los Angeles suburb of Chino Hills; and a supermarket in Melbourne Beach, Fla.

They'll split the winnings three ways and have the option of taking the full cash sum or dividing the prize into 30 annual payments.

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HUDSON'S BAY

CRIME

Police charge a third suspect in 2014 homicide

A third man has been charged in the 2014 fatal stabbing of Dwayne Goodwin, 23, in East York. Police said Thursday that a 27-year-old man from Toronto was arrested on Tuesday. Marcus Connell, 27, has been charged with first-degree murder and appeared in court on Wednesday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SAFETY

Peel school board fined $50K

A Toronto-area school board has been fined $50,000 after a student suffered a fracture in a classroom incident.

Peel District School Board pleaded guilty in a Brampton court to failing to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker in a workplace as a result of the April 2014 incident.

Three students at a Mississauga school were attending a manufacturing program class and were assigned the task of removing four old caster wheels from a metal table. A 204-kilogram metal industrial shear that had been brought to the school by the teacher, without the knowledge of the school administration, was on the table.

204 kg

Weight of the metal industrial shear that landed on the back of one of the students.

As instructed by their teacher, the students used a floor jack to raise one end of the table and cut off one of the legs, including the old caster wheel.

When the jack was lowered the table tipped forward and the shear slid off the table, landing on the back of one of the students, who did not know the shear was not secured to the work table.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Metrolinx has finalized station names for the Eglinton Crosstown, but one board member mused about reconsidering the overarching name for the line. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Debate over stop's name

EGLINTON CROSSTOWN LRT

Double-barrel choice resolves contentious transit issue

It was seen as a Solomon-like compromise. But the tortured Metrolinx board discussion about what to call one stop on the Eglinton Crosstown LRT may be just a prelude to the larger question about the ultimate moniker of the transit line itself.

The street-level stop in Scarborough that's in dispute will be called Hakimi Lebovic. The original recommendation had been to call it Lebovic, after the avenue that runs south of Eglinton, while the preferred choice of the TTC and local politicians was Hakimi, the avenue that runs north from the same intersection.

The resolution ends one of the most contentious public debates in nine years of Metrolinx board meetings.

When the Crosstown stops were initially discussed at the regular December board meeting, the 15 minutes allotted on the agenda stretched to 40 as board members tried to reconcile the station and stop names with their real geographic locations.

Forest Hill station at Bathurst St. was seen by some as too far from Forest Hill Village. The Dufferin St. stop, named for the Fairbank neighbourhood, was considered too obscure to be recognizable by some transit riders.

The board sent staff back to reconsider. But with a deadline to provide names to Crosslinx, the company building the line, a special meeting was held Thursday to decide the matter.

In the end, Forest Hill and Fairbank were approved on the understanding that the relevant street names, Bathurst and Dufferin, would be clearly visible at the stops.

> **"There's discussion with the TTC because they've moved to numbered lines.**
> Leslie Woo

But the board decided to split the difference and double-barrel Hakimi Lebovic. The question of hyphenation has been left to Metrolinx staff. But early indications were that additional punctuation wasn't desired. A request from Centennial College to have it named for that campus was rejected.

Noting that many of the LRT station entrances don't front directly on Eglinton, one board member mused about the overarching Eglinton Crosstown handle.

"It is an issue for consideration and further discussion," said Metrolinx chief planning officer Leslie Woo. "There's discussion with the TTC because they've moved to numbered lines. That is a possibility," she said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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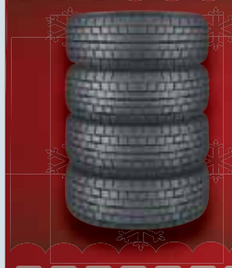

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BI-WEEKLY	ALL IN PRICE
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2012 TOYOTA CAMRY LE

BI-WEEKLY	ALL IN PRICE
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BI-WEEKLY	ALL IN PRICE
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2012 SIENNA V6

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Outside workers prepared for strike

LABOUR

Union fears 'aggressive' city bargaining

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

A second city union has authorized strike action.

CUPE Local 416, which represents about 6,000 outside workers, gave leadership a strike mandate this week in the event negotiations with the city go south.

Union spokesman Kevin Wilson wouldn't disclose the percentage of those who voted in favour, saying only that it was "a large margin."

The mandate puts the union in a position to negotiate an agreement that ensures workers have good, stable jobs, according to a statement. The statement noted that the city recently requested a provincial conciliator, sparking concerns there will be "an aggressive approach to bargaining."

CUPE Local 79, which represents about 20,000 inside workers, approved a strike mandate last weekend.

Daycare workers, health inspectors and staff at family health and recreation centres are among those represented by Local 79, the city's largest public-sector union.

Garbage collectors are among those represented by Local 416.

6,000

Number of outside workers represented by CUPE Local 416.

The workers carry out services like garbage collection, but possible effects of a strike aren't yet clear. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

HEALTH

Blame game ensues over nurse layoffs

The Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) is sounding the alarm about layoffs of registered nurses by cash-strapped hospitals and warns patients will pay the price.

The union, which represents 60,000 registered nurses (RNs), says there were 770 RN positions cut across Ontario last year, and hospitals in Windsor and Kitchener have already announced more RN layoffs this month.

The hospitals decided to "risk the health outcomes of patients by cutting RNs to balance the budget," said ONA president Linda Haslam-Stroud.

Windsor Regional Hospital (WRH) cut about 120 RN positions this week but said it plans to hire 80 registered practical nurses, who do not need a university degree. The Grand River Hospital in Kitchener cut 38 RN jobs this week.

A four-year funding freeze means hospitals have less money for patient care because of inflationary pressures on wages and other costs, said ONA vice-president Vicki McKenna.

"I absolutely believe that this is all being driven by budget cuts," she said.

Part of the problem is the government's funding formula favours hospitals in high-growth areas like Toronto, Markham, Richmond Hill and Barrie, which means less money for Windsor-Essex, said WRH president and CEO David Musyj.

"Generally this is where we have been penalized as a hospital and region," Musyj said in a note to staff announcing the layoffs. "Just for this fiscal year, we are being told we will receive approximately $10 million dollars less in funding due to the formula."

A spokesman for Health Minister Eric Hoskins said the government consulted 500 "health-system leaders, clinicians and experts" on the funding formula.

"Hospitals, long-term care and community care providers are funded based on how many patients they look after, the services they deliver, and the specific needs of the population they serve," said press secretary Shae Greenfield. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RESTAURANTS

City's two Carl's Jr. locations close

The U.S. burger chain Carl's Jr. closed both of its Toronto locations Thursday to the dismay of fans craving Thickburgers and milkshakes.

The Queen Street W. and Yonge Street stores had closed their doors to customers when reached at 5 p.m.

Malik Bura, an employee at the Yonge Street location, said staff members were notified of the closure about two weeks ago. He said between 15 and 20 employees from his restaurant are out of a job.

According to Newstalk 1010 reports, contractual problems between Carl's Jr. and franchisee 6 Points Food Services led to the shutdown.

The burger chain plans to add 30 restaurants across Canada. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A post on the Carl's Jr. Canada Twitter page reads, "When a door closes, a window opens," and explains the brand plans to open 30 additional restaurants across Canada.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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ORDER OF ONTARIO 12 OF 27 RECIPIENTS COME FROM TORONTO

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Toronto features prominently in this year's class of Order of Ontario honourees.

Community activists, health-care providers, former politicians and university researchers are among a list of 27 Ontarians who will be honoured next week by Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell. A dozen of them are from Toronto. They include:

Gordon Cressy
Politician and activist, part of a group of Torontonians that recently called for an end to police carding

Herbert Gaisano
U of T professor and gastroenterologist who's done extensive work in the fight against diabetes

Mary Anne Chambers
Former cabinet minister

Stanley Zlotkin
Nutritional specialist

Julian Nedzelski
Surgeon

Rita Letendre
Artist

Anton Kuerti
Pianist, composer and conductor

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Di Biase challenges ethics czar

MUNICIPAL POLITICS

Judicial review of Craig's probe, penalty being sought

Vaughan's deputy mayor is taking the city and its ethics czar to court in hopes a judge will quash a report that found he created a "culture of fear" and meddled in the city's procurement process.

Veteran councillor Michael Di Biase is seeking a judicial review of Integrity Commissioner Suzanne Craig's investigation from last year that found the seasoned politician tried to exert influence in the city's tendering process, and bullied staff who tried to push back.

At the time, council endorsed Craig's recommendation to dock Di Biase three months' pay — the harshest penalty allowed under the Municipal Act. Di Biase lost about $20,000 of his councillor salary.

Di Biase's claim, filed with the Ontario Superior Court in December, asks a judge to dismiss the original complaint that led to the investigation, Craig's decision, and council's ensuing decision to dock his pay. He is also asking for legal costs associated with the case, which the city confirmed he is paying himself.

"The issues raised in this application are: whether the Commissioner and the City denied the applicant natural justice and breached procedural fairness by relying on a non-transparent investigation process," according to the claim.

Michael Di Biase
RON BULL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Craig's code of conduct investigation involved six months of research and confidential interviews with more than 30 City of Vaughan staff, who told her that Di Biase was "intimidating," used "abusive language" and created a toxic work environment.

According to the court filings, Di Biase believes the case against him was unfair and that he should have been provided with summaries of the interviews to "make a full answer and defence." He also claims Craig "misinterpreted" the city's code of conduct.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

POLICE

Officer faces charges as man hospitalized

The Special Investigations Unit says a Toronto police officer is facing charges after its probe into an early morning incident last year at an east-end parking lot.

The police watchdog agency says its investigation — which included video evidence as well as 911 call recordings — found that a man drove his vehicle into a parking lot early on Oct. 31, 2015.

The SIU says that moments after, a police cruiser drove into the parking lot and stopped behind the man's vehicle, and there was an interaction between a police officer and the 47-year-old man.

The officer then left the scene and, sometime later, paramedics arrived and the man was taken to hospital.

Sgt. Robert Goudie is facing charges of assault causing bodily harm, and failure to provide the necessaries of life, and is to appear in court on Feb. 23.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

From left, **Esme Coyle, Calvin Akler and Alex Treude play a game of Lords of Waterdeep** at Snakes & Lattes Board Game Café. ALL PHOTOS: NICK KOZAK/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

More T.O. cafés getting on board

ENTERTAINMENT

City a creative hot spot for gamers and designers

Geraldo Neto rolls the dice under the pot lights at Toronto's newest board-game café.

Accompanied by four friendly strangers and the hissing espresso machine at A-Game, the Brazilian ESL student hurls himself into the world of Catan.

"I'm here to play, learn English and make new friends — except on the board," says Neto, who's been coming to A-Game Café since he arrived in the country, a few months after the sleek board-game hub opened on Queen Street West.

A-Game is the latest outgrowth of Toronto's newfound role as king of board-game café culture in North America. And Neto is the newest convert in a growing congregation of board gamers who now have their pick of at least eight game-stacked temples in which to practise their faith.

"We have a massive number of board-game bars and cafés compared to cities in the U.S.," says Aaron Zack, head of operations for Snakes & Lattes, Toronto's board-games mecca.

The hip Bloor Street hot spot simmers with life and coffee 16 hours a day, drawing people of all ages and backgrounds within its exposed brick walls.

"It's just a great place to get out and talk to people. And it's much better than staring at a screen," says Jared Kennedy, 16.

He and three friends came downtown from Pickering to play Cash 'n' Guns, their fake pistols strewn beside the board. A few tables over, four teenage girls strive to save mankind from eradication in Pandemic.

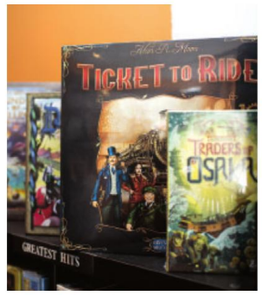
Snakes & Lattes, which has expanded three times in the past five years, invites customers in for a $5 cover charge. It hosts tutorials and high-stakes tournaments — the winner of a Carcassonne battle headed to Essen, Germany, for the international championships last October, placing in the top 20.

"Toronto has a thriving board-game scene," said Gil Hova, a New York-based designer who recently visited the GTA. "The Snakes & Lattes café is certainly most prominent, (but) I didn't come close to seeing everything."

Soon after it opened in 2010, Snakes & Lattes began hosting monthly gatherings — often into the a.m. — for designers to sound-board ideas and test-play their fledgling games. It became a hive of ingenuity for hobbyists.

Designers such as Stephen Sauer and Daryl Andrews workshop their products in bull sessions that have helped yield two games now on the market, The Walled City and Caffeine Rush. The duo expects the release of half a dozen more in the next couple of years.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Some of the board games at Snakes & Lattes.

Mikhail Honoridez prepares games of Carcassonne before a tournament at Snakes & Lattes.

PLAYTIME

The GTA's board game cafés — a few even serve alcohol — tend to cluster in high-density areas of Toronto, but also offer face-to-face gaming as far out as Markham. A few are:

Snakes & Lattes Board Game Café, 600 Bloor St. West.

Castle Board Game Café, 454 Spadina Ave.

Snakes & Lattes Board Game Bar, 488 College St.

A-Game Café, 240 Queen St. W.

Roll Play Café, 10A Edward St.

Bampot Bohemian House of Tea & Board Games, 201 Harbord St.

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Mayor John Tory delivers key points on his vision for the city to a panel of editorial staff at Metro Toronto on Thursday. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

METROTALKS JOHN TORY

As part of Metro's editorial panel with key influencers, the **mayor of Toronto** visits our newsroom

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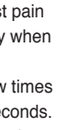

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John Tory wants to run for re-election in 2018.

It's the only way to make a difference, he said in a sit-down talk with Metro.

"I think people will be able to look back at the period I've been given — I hope it's eight years, but it's four for now — and say, 'Look, we made a real difference in making sure the city could stay a great place, and become greater.'"

Don't expect big, splashy plans. Or, for that matter, a lot of charisma.

Tory prides himself on making "incremental" changes.

"I am, by definition, somewhat boring," he said. "You know, I don't seek to be exciting."

It may not be the sexiest leadership strategy, but it's the way Tory's decided he can keep Toronto ranked as one of the best places in the world to live.

These are some of the highlights from our chat.

Youth unemployment

Tory is confident that Toronto is tackling the problems that are keeping about 18 per cent of young people out of work.

During his first year in office, the number of employers working with the Partnership to Advance Youth Employment (PAYE), which he called "the city's most successful program," tripled.

"It's not an answer to the 18 per cent, but it's certainly one of those things that's made a contribution," he said.

The city needs to continue supporting entrepreneurs, innovators and risk takers, who, in turn, employ many young people, he said.

"It's a partnership. It's not just the mayor of the City of Toronto," he said.

Affordable housing

The only way to reduce the long waiting list is to increase the supply and, in the past, Toronto hasn't kept up with its own targets, Tory said.

The mayor has been trying to change that by welcoming Toronto developers into his office and finding ways to encourage them to build affordable units faster.

He also touted progress on building more shelters in Toronto.

The Friday opening of a shelter for LGBTQ youth was one of his proudest moments as mayor, Tory said.

Cycling

Tory doesn't bike.

But, he acknowledged the need for more dedicated bike lanes, especially on streets like Bloor, Richmond and Adelaide, that fill gaps in the existing network.

"It's fundamentally important to future transportation in the city," he said.

"To me, what we should have is an integrated transportation system," he added. "We don't really have such an integrated system and whatever we do have is not working properly."

Pedestrian/cyclist safety

Improving conditions for people who move around Toronto on two feet and two wheels will be the focus of overhauling the city's road safety plan, Tory promised.

Tory said he's studying strategies employed by other cities and trying to come up with a version of Vision Zero — the idea that even one road death is too many — that will work for Toronto.

The city is already making moves to place "people first, as opposed to cars," he said.

"People who are sitting inside two tonnes of steel, I think they have a degree of protection around them. The people who are more vulnerable are the people on their bike or people walking."

Building a creative economy

Tory hasn't followed through on his promise to hire someone dedicated to building a creative economy.

Still, the mayor insisted he's committed to boosting Toronto's innovation and startup economy.

He's hired a consulting firm (unnamed, but of the Deloitte or McKinsey variety) and is "determined to give life to the words that say Kitchener-Toronto corridor" so the region can compete against the likes of Silicon Valley.

Tory's also hoping to convince major Toronto corporations to partner with startups to test new apps, technology and ideas.

Without offering any details, the mayor said the city may build a new, better-resourced and much larger startup incubator than we've seen to date.

Meeting with Trudeau

Tory highlighted two key points when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau paid a visit Thursday.

One, the mayor is dedicated to creating a city building fund to pay for housing and transit projects. Two, the city has plenty of shovel-ready projects in the banks. Both of those are expected to help the city bring in its share of infrastructure money the federal government is promising, Tory said.

CITY HALL

It's all in the little things

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

For John Tory, the devil — and often his unsung success — is in the details.

Tory revealed small changes at City Hall that go mostly unnoticed, without ribbon cuttings.

But why shouldn't there be ribbon cuttings? Some of the small things make a big difference.

For example:

• The city has retimed the signals at 71 intersections where there have been problems with pedestrian safety. The change gives people more time to cross.

• A piece of Madison Avenue land near Dupont has been waiting for 10 years to be developed into affordable housing. The city finally got the project — which will yield 82 new units — started last year.

• Tory wants to make Toronto "home of the game changers." To do so, he's been bringing young leaders from the tech sector with him on city-building trips around the world.

"I am, by definition, somewhat boring. You know, I don't seek to be exciting.
Mayor John Tory

MAN WITH A PLAN

Continued from page 1

The $67 million in commitments council has made includes, among other things, starting subway service earlier on Sundays, improvements to bus service, accelerated repairs at Toronto Community Housing buildings, implementing lower speed limits in residential neighbourhoods along with enhancing parks, libraries and arts programming.

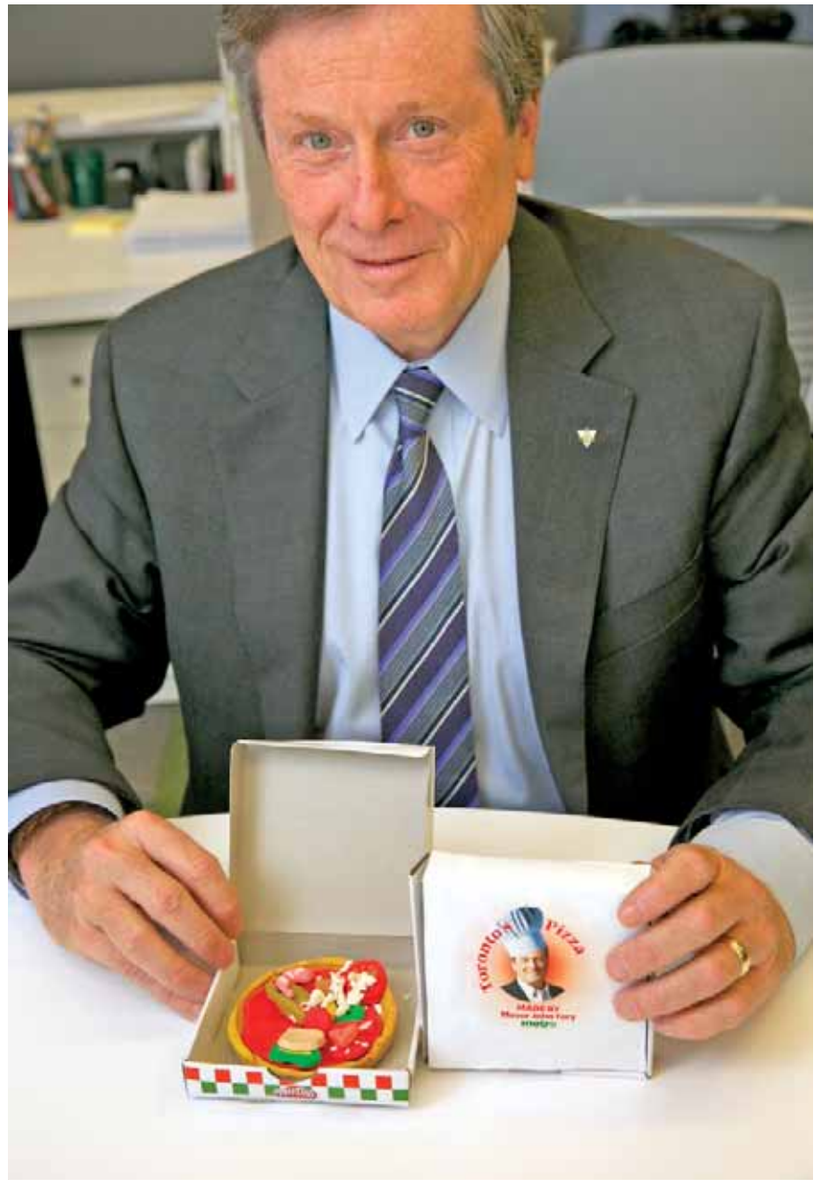
The poverty reduction strategy, approved by councillors last year, is a 20-year plan to reduce inequality by improving support and opportunities for people living on low incomes.

$6 million

The poverty reduction strategy requires $6 million in additional funding for 2016.

Toronto's Political Pizza

Chicago's got deep dish. New York's known for flimsy crust that folds for a river of gooey cheese and oil. But, when it comes to pizza, Toronto's not known for being all that, well, saucy. Metro asked John Tory to make an authentic Toronto pizza. Turns out, the politician had a political answer: a pizza with four, or even eight, sections, each with different toppings to suit all of Toronto's diverse tastes. **JESSICA SMITH CROSS** METRO



LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

CITY IMPROVEMENT

Striving for a memorable legacy

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

John Tory would like a deeper connection to Toronto's ravines to be a big part of his legacy.

People need more access to the ravine system, but, at the same time, the city has to "make sure they don't get degraded," he said, praising the leadership chief planner Jennifer Keesmaat has shown on the issue.

Neighbourhood revitalization — like what's happening in Regent Park and Lawrence Heights — is also something he hopes to have credited to his time in office.

Then, there's Smart Track — Tory's brainchild for getting Toronto moving, and something he remains dedicated to making happen.

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Disabled boy thrown in Winnipeg dumpster

MANITOBA

Passerby helped him out, but family still shocked

When his 13-year-old son came home late from school last week, John Morrissette figured he had just gone on a walk.

It wasn't until the next day that Morrissette found out his intellectually disabled boy, Jean-Micheal, had been found in a Winnipeg garbage bin as temperatures dipped to -15 C.

Morrissette said his son had been assaulted by two men, thrown in the dumpster and left to freeze.

"I was very angry with the guys who would do this to my son," Morrissette said in an interview Thursday. "You can see he's a harmless child."

Nicole Langlois, who works nearby, told CTV Winnipeg that she heard faint cries for help as she walked past the large garbage container. A gut feeling made her return and she found the boy covered with garbage.

"All he kept saying was, 'Help. They pushed me in here,'" Langlois said.

"She's my son's angel," he said. "I thank her every day."

The family is appealing to anyone who might have seen anything to come forward.

"You don't jump a kid in daylight and nobody see it," he said. "My son can't identify them. But somebody can."

"Be my son's voice, somebody." THE CANADIAN PRESS

John Morissette, right, with his son Jean-Micheal, 13.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

ECONOMY

Diversity key to growth: PM

Shifting away from reliance on oil and other commodities is key to Canada's economic future growth, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Thursday.

Speaking at the opening of Google's new Canadian headquarters, he acknowledged the pain people are feeling amid a slump in oil prices.

"That is why we put forward an ambitious agenda to invest in Canada, to count on Canadians to be able to bounce back from low commodity prices by diversifying."

He said the opening of Google's 17,000-square-metre facility was an example of the "positive news" in the economy. Earlier in the day, he announced $12 million for research into clean-water technologies at the University of Waterloo. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the new Google Canada Development headquarters in Kitchener, Ont., Thursday.
NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

PUBLIC SAFETY

Federal crime plans reviewed for success

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

The Liberal government is planning to put hundreds of Conservative crime-prevention initiatives under the microscope to determine which ones worked — and which ones didn't.

A request for proposals issued Wednesday says Public Safety Canada is launching a year-long study examining the sustainability of crime prevention projects the department has funded.

Starting in 2006 — when the Conservatives took office — the department funded about 800 crime prevention projects under the National Crime Prevention Strategy, originally pegged to have a $43-milion annual budget, but which suffered $29 million in cuts.

The strategy's current priorities, the RFP says, are to address early risk factors among children, youth and young adults at risk of offending.

The study would review a sample of projects to determine which ones were adopted by non-governmental agencies and other levels of government. A final report would be due in November, with a presentation to department officials in mid-December.

IN BRIEF

Kevin O'Leary denies parallels to Donald Trump

Kevin O'Leary confirmed he's considering taking a run at the leadership of the Conservative party, while fellow titan Trump runs for head of the U.S. Republicans. But he denied parallels, other than media savvy. "I don't build walls," he said. He said he would invest $1 million in Canadian energy if Rachel Notley steps down as premier of Alberta. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jakarta suspects arrested

INDONESIA

ISIL claims responsibility for bombing; 3 men in custody

Indonesians were shaken but refusing to be cowed a day after a deadly attack in a busy district of central Jakarta that has been claimed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

In a new development, police on Friday told an Indonesian TV channel they arrested three men on suspicion of links to the attack that killed seven people including five attackers.

The area near a Starbucks coffee shop where the attack by suicide bombers and gunmen began remained cordoned off with a highly visible police presence Friday.

Onlookers and journalists lingered nearby, with some people leaving flowers and messages of support. A large screen atop the building that houses the Starbucks displayed messages that said "#prayforjakarta" and "Indonesia Unite."

Newspapers carried bold front-page headlines declaring the country was united in condemnation of the attack, which was the first in Indonesia since 2009.

Depok area police chief Col. Dwiyono told MetroTV that the three men were arrested at dawn at their homes in Depok on the outskirts of Jakarta.

Dwiyono says the men are suspected militants and are being questioned over possible links to the attack Thursday.

MetroTV broadcast footage of the handcuffed men being escorted by police.

Risti Amelia, an accountant at a company near the Starbucks restaurant said she was "still shaking and weak" when she returned to her office Friday.

Two civilians were killed in the Thursday morning attack, an Indonesian and a Canadian. Another 20 people were wounded.

Jakarta police chief Maj. Gen. Tito Karnavian has said the attackers had links to ISIL and were part of a group led by Bahrum Naim, an Indonesian militant who is now in Syria.

A message shared on Twitter late Thursday claimed the attack was the work of ISIL, and the U.S.-based SITE Intelligence Group said it was circulated among pro-ISIL groups on other media.

The message said attackers carried out the Jakarta assault and had planted several bombs with timers. It differed from Indonesian police on the number of attackers, saying there were four. It said they wore suicide belts and carried light weaponry.

Jakarta is no stranger to terrorism, with the 2009 bombings of two hotels that killed seven people and injured more than 50. The bloodiest attack by Islamic extremists in Indonesia — and in all of Asia — was in 2002, when a nightclub bombing on the resort island of Bali killed 202 people, mostly foreigners.

Those and others were blamed on the al-Qaida-inspired Jemaah Islamiyah. Following a crackdown by security forces, militant strikes in recent years have been smaller and less deadly, and have targeted government authorities, mainly police and anti-terrorism forces. Experts say ISIL supporters in Indonesia are drawn from the remnants of Jemaah Islamiyah. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 A bouquet of flowers is placed in front of the explosion site on Thursday. GETTY IMAGES **2 The Starbucks cafe where an attack took place displays the message "Pray for Jakarta."** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS **3 Indonesian servicemen stand guard** as police collect evidence from the site. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

TERRORISM

Canadian man dead

A Canadian man was killed in Indonesia's capital Thursday when gunmen launched a series of co-ordinated attacks police said were linked to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

Jakarta police chief Maj.-Gen. Tito Karnavian told a news conference that the first attack — a suicide bombing — happened at a Starbucks, causing customers to run outside, where two gunmen opened fire, killing the Canadian and wounding a bystander.

Two other suicide bombers attacked a nearby traffic police booth, killing themselves and an Indonesian man.

Shortly after, Karnavian said, a group of policemen was attacked by two remaining gunmen, using homemade bombs. This led to a 15-minute gunfight, he said.

All five gunmen were killed and 20 people were wounded in the attacks, police said.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Ottawa was working with Indonesian authorities to confirm the reports of a Canadian killed in the attacks.

"The hearts of Canada and Canadians go out to the people of Indonesia and all the families and victims of these terrible attacks," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Ebola death in Africa after WHO said epidemic over

According to reports, hours after the World Health Organization declared Thursday an end to the deadliest Ebola outbreak ever, the disease was confirmed to have killed one person in Sierra Leone. METRO, WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turkey retaliates against ISIL, attacks key positions

Turkish tanks and artillery attacked ISIL positions in Iraq and Syria Thursday, in retaliation for the suicide bombing in Istanbul which killed 10 tourists, PM Ahmet Davutoglu said.

Close to 200 extremists were "rendered ineffective" — the government's term for "killed" — in the offensive in the past 48 hours, Davutoglu said. It was unclear how Turkey verified the number of dead or their membership in the extremist group.

"Turkey will continue to punish with even greater force any threat that is directed against Turkey or its guests," Davutoglu said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

These people were among refugees bused from Bavaria to Berlin. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

GERMANY

Bus carrying refugees rerouted to Merkel

A bus carrying 31 Syrian refugees arrived in Berlin from southern Germany on Thursday night as a district councillor in Bavaria followed up on his pledge to Chancellor Angela Merkel that he'd send refugees her way if his district could no longer provide accommodation.

The act came amid ongoing concern about how Germany will deal with 1.1 million asylum-seekers that flooded in last year. Peter Dreier, a Landshut councillor, said he wanted to "send a sign that refugee policy cannot continue like this."

Dreier said he had talked with Merkel on the phone last year, warning her that Landshut was reaching its capacity and that he'd put refugees on buses to Berlin if his district could no longer handle the influx.

Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert said in a statement that the city of Berlin had agreed to offer accommodation for the refugees for their first night in Berlin. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Oxford Regional Centre
between April 1, 1974 - March 31, 1996 or in the "Mental Retardation Unit" or "MR Unit" between Jan, 1, 1969 - March 31, 1974

Midwestern Regional Centre
between Sept. 1, 1963 - March 31, 1998

Adult Occupational Centre
between Jan. 1, 1966 - March 31, 1999

Durham Centre for Developmentally Handicapped
between April 1, 1974 - Sept. 28, 1986

Muskoka Centre
between Aug. 28, 1973 - June 30, 1993

Prince Edward Heights
between Jan. 1, 1971 - Dec. 31, 1999

Northwestern Regional Centre
between April 1, 1974 - March 31, 1994

Bluewater Centre
between April 1, 1976 - Dec. 20, 1983

Pine Ridge
between Sept. 1, 1963 - Aug. 31, 1984

A Lawsuit and Proposed Settlement May Affect You.

The Ontario Superior Court of Justice decided that a class action on behalf of a "Class" of people who lived at the above institutions is allowed to go forward. There is also a proposed settlement to end the class action.

What is this case about?
The lawsuit says the Province of Ontario failed to properly care for and protect people who lived at the Institutions. The Province of Ontario denies these claims. The parties have reached a proposed settlement to end the lawsuit.

If you are having a difficult time dealing with these issues you can call 1-866-442-4465 (TTY: 1-877-627-7027).

Are you included?
You are included in this lawsuit if:

- You lived at one or more of the Institutions between the dates listed above and were alive as of June 16, 2012; or
- You are an estate trustee of someone who lived at one of the Institutions but who died after June 16, 2012.

Who represents the former residents?
The Court has appointed Koskie Minsky LLP (KM LLP) to represent the former residents as a Class.

The proposed settlement
The proposed settlement includes:
- an approximately $35.9 million settlement fund;
- a paper based claims process that will not require anyone to testify in court; and
- a release by class members of all claims against the Province of Ontario stemming from the Institutions.

Compensation and legal fees
If the settlement is approved by the court, there will be a claims process allowing former residents who are part of the Class to ask for compensation.

KM LLP agreed that it would only be paid if there was a settlement or a successful judgment. KM LLP will seek the court's approval of its legal fees of $3.7 million plus $481,000 for taxes.
All payments to the class members will come from the settlement, after payment of legal fees, tax and a mandatory payment to the Class Proceedings Fund of $2.9 million.

Your legal rights and options
DO NOTHING: by doing nothing you automatically stay in the class action and wait to see if the settlement is approved on April 25, 2016. You can then make a claim if the settlement is approved. **Staying in this Class will not impact the residence or supports received from community based agencies which are funded by Ontario.**

GET OUT OF THE CLASS ACTION: If you do not want to be part of the settlement and want to keep your rights to sue Ontario individually over the claims in this case **you need to remove yourself.** If you remove yourself, you cannot get money from this lawsuit. To ask to be removed, send a letter to the Class Action Administrator, postmarked no later than **April 15, 2016,** that says you want to be removed from *Clegg v. Province of Ontario.* Include your name, address, telephone number, and signature. You can also get an Opt Out Form at www.schedule1facilities.ca.

STAY IN THE CLASS ACTION BUT OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT: If you want to stay in the lawsuit but you don't want the settlement approved, you can object to the settlement. If you want to object to the settlement, you have to write to the Court and tell them why. You must send your written objection to the Class Action Administrator. You can ask to talk at the court hearing on April 25, 2016.

Approval hearing
The settlement, claims process and counsel fees are subject to court approval. The approval hearing shall be heard on **April 25, 2016 at the Superior Court of Justice in Toronto, Ontario.** Class members may attend the hearing. Any class members who wish to object to the proposed settlement should provide written notice of their objection to the Claims Administrator by April 4, 2016.

Contact information
If you need more information or wish to object, please contact the Class Action Administrator, toll-free, at 1-866-442-4465 or TTY: 1-877-627-7027, write to Schedule 1 Class Action Administrator, 3-505, 133 Weber Street North, Waterloo, Ontario, N2J 3G9, or by email at: schedule1facilities@crawco.ca.

Getting Notice to former residents
Family members, caregivers and friends of former residents are asked to help in getting information to former residents. Please show this notice to people who are impacted by this lawsuit or their caregivers.

One-third of Canadian subscribers admit using unblockers to access the American version of Netflix. ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES

Users won't get away with murder: Netflix

STREAMING VIDEO

Company vows to shut down use of proxy services

Netflix says it's planning on cracking down on users who use virtual private networks and proxy services to view content not available in their countries.

Many of the company's distribution deals with major studios and content providers are negotiated on a regional basis, meaning certain titles are only available to users in certain countries.

Some Canadians use VPN services to stream Netflix movies and TV shows available in the United States, which according to the website Netflixable has around twice as many available titles. The U.S. version of Netflix also features more Hollywood blockbusters and recent seasons of popular network shows than its Canadian counterpart.

In a blog post, David Fullagar, Netflix's vice-president of content delivery, said the company is making progress in licensing content across borders, but is now implementing new measures to end the use of so-called unblockers and other proxy services.

The company has always been against the use of such services and has said it takes measures to shut them down, but Fullagar said the company is "evolving" its approach to the problem and the new strategy will be in place in the coming weeks.

According to a April 2015 report by Media Technology Monitor, roughly two in five English-speaking Canadians has a subscription to the video-streaming service, with nearly one-third saying they had accessed the American version of the service.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Wikipedia gets another source of cash
Wikipedia is getting additional money as it turns 15 on Friday. A new endowment created for it will start with $1 million US donated by Jim Pacha, a software engineer who died in 2014, with a goal of $100 million by 2026.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 69.63¢ (–0.08¢)
TSX 12,336.03 (+165.62)
OIL $31.20 US (+72¢)
GOLD $1,073.60 US (–$13.50)

NATURAL GAS: $2.139 US (–13¢)
DOW JONES: 16,379.05 (+227.64)

BANK OF CANADA

Economists predict rate cut next week

A growing number of economists predict the Bank of Canada will cut interest rates next week in response to the economic hit from slumping oil prices.

0.5%
The Bank of Canada's key overnight rate.

The move should lead to lower borrowing costs for consumers and businesses, which could boost spending and put pressure on a falling loonie. That, in turn, could help boost exports.

However, economists cautioned that after eight years of record low rates, a cut could have mixed results. They said the price of houses in overheated markets like Toronto and Vancouver could potentially be boosted, while only modestly helping drive exports.

The Bank of Montreal and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce are the latest to join a chorus of forecasters predicting a quarter-point cut in the central bank rate on Jan. 20. That would take the rate back down to a record low 0.25 per cent and mark the third time in a year the bank has cut rates to prop up the economy.

Toronto-Dominion Bank chief economist Beata Caranci first raised the possibility of a rate cut in a note Wednesday, citing the Bank of Canada's quarterly Business Outlook Survey, which showed business investment and hiring intentions at their lowest level since the Great Recession of 2008-09.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Weekend, January 15-17, 2016

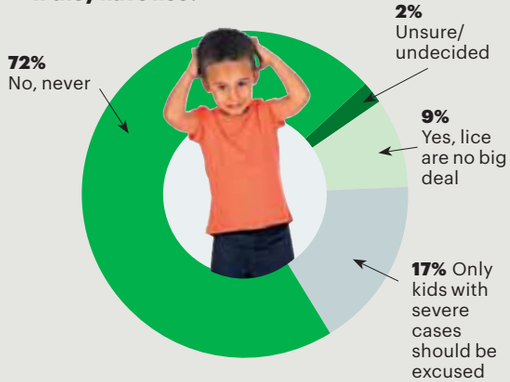
Metro POLL

The facts of lice

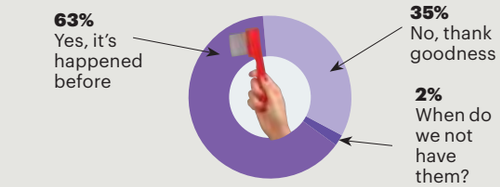
Visit metronews.ca **to have your say.**

School boards across the country, on the advice of the Canadian Paediatric Society, are revoking the rule that children with head lice must stay home from school. A few creepy crawlies — which cause only mild itching and don't spread disease — are no reason to interrupt kids' education, the society says. Head lice don't spread disease (just embarrassment and anxiety) and many kids who are found to have nits don't actually have lice, leading to a lot of unnecessary absences. So why the uproar about letting lousy kids in the classroom? We asked our readers.

1 Should children be allowed to attend school if they have lice?



2 Have your children or anyone in your family ever had to deal with lice?



3 If you are OK with kids who have lice attending school, why?

66% I'm not OK with that!
11% Sending kids with lice home is stigmatizing
11% Lice are not worth interrupting education over
4% You can't keep ahead of lice, no point in trying
4% Lice is not that big a deal
4% Other

It's more embarrassing for children to attend school with lice than stay home until they are treated.

The problem was never-ending when my four children were small. It's not a disease, it's an everyday issue.

A 24-hour rule is enough as long as the parent does their part.

Between the shampoo and the coin laundry, lice end up costing hundreds of dollars to get rid of.

WE ASKED Metro readers

Time to crack up the myth of mid-life crisis

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto

Watch out for that mid-life crisis. Dad will fall into a deep depression and climb out with a shiny motorcycle and a half-his-age girlfriend to match.

Until recently, that idea was both accepted science and conventional wisdom.

But a new study — the first to follow Canadian adults' happiness over a long period of time — tells a different story.

The paper, in the journal Developmental Psychology, throws cold water on the notion of a mid-life crisis. Put scientifically, it challenges the theory that happiness (the measure of how satisfied people report they are with their lives overall) follows a U-shaped curve throughout life (carefree youth, miserable middle age, happy old age).

The researchers used two Canadian data sets, representing about 1,600 people. One followed a group from age 23 to 37 and asked them periodically about happiness — and each time, they reported feeling happier on average. The set looked at a different group from age 18 until 43. They said they were happier from their teens to 30s, with just a very slight drop at 43.

"We can't read too much into that," said Nancy Galambos, the lead author and a professor of psychology at the University of Alberta. "Even with that slight dip, they were much happier at age 43 than they were, on average, at age 18 or in their early 20s."

Because this was a longitudinal study (it followed the same people over time), I'm apt to trust it over past "snapshot"-style studies that surveyed people of different ages and concluded happiness dips in mid-life.

That method is flawed, Galambos says. We don't know how today's teenagers will feel in their 40s. Asking today's 40-year-olds won't get us closer to the answer. And one-off studies often reflect ups and downs, not trends. Immediate circumstances (work stress, kids-stress, etc.), at the time a person is answering a survey can throw off the results.

So why does life look up as we get older? Stability. Being young is stressful and uncertain. Gainful employment tends to make people happier, and that comes with time, Galambos said. The same is true of being married, so it's not surprising that younger adults — who have left the nest, but have yet to form their own families — tend to be unhappy. As we age, we get better at regulating our emotions, the study says. In layman's terms, we wise up.

But the mid-life crisis thing seems to be baloney. "There are crises across the lifespan. Some of them happen in mid-life," Galambos said, but "People really believe in the mid-life crisis. People count on one." And that's a problem, because middle-aged people may assume the inevitable crisis has hit when what's really going on is a mental health issue.

Bottom line: Most of the people studied became happier over time. And that's a nice thought. Flailing Millennials can look forward to settling down. Middle-aged folks can stop waking up every morning and wondering if the time has yet arrived to crack up. And if you're elderly, there's more good news: The literature pretty clearly shows we continue to get happier as we age. Perhaps you could devote part of your twilight years to helping the rest of us calm down.

Genna Buck is a science writer and a section editor at Metro. Follow her on Twitter @genna_buck.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

They's the word of the year, and for good reason

It's award season, and "they" won.

The American Dialect Society, which hosts what it considers the premiere word-of-the-year event, voted "they" as the winner for 2015 — particularly, "they" in the form of a third-person singular pronoun to refer to gender-nonconforming people.

They're right, of course. As are the many like-minded others (including the Washington Post). It should be used. Both because reality necessitates a common pronoun that can be applied to people who are not he or she, and also because every person deserves to be referred to accurately and respectfully.

As a writer, however, "they" has been hard to swallow.

For a least the last few years, and especially when writing about trans issues, I've had sources ask to be referred to as "they." I never denied that request. But I never completely acquiesced.

Instead, I avoided pronouns altogether, and wrote around the problem.

"They" has long been used in a way (e.g., "Everybody loves their mom" instead "Everybody loves his or her mom") that bothers no one who isn't a hardline grammarian. Shakespeare, Jane Austen, you and me — we're all fine with it.

But some uses of "they" sound off-kilter to me. To wit: "Susie loves her mother, and they loves their father too."

Or, more likely to arise in my work, "'I love my mother,'" Susie said. And their father, they added."

Clunky, no? Jarring, too. Like walking off the sidewalk curb without expecting to.

It's all English's fault. Other languages have gender-neutral pronouns; their speakers haven't spent years concocting stand-ins with no consensus. Among the offerings over the years: "ne," "e," "thon" or "jee." Some universities, including Harvard, let students self-identify on registration forms as "ze," "e," or "they."

Bill Walsh, a copy editor at the Washington Post and keeper of the paper's style guide, called "they" "the only sensible solution to English's lack of a gender-neutral third-person singular personal pronoun." Increasingly, there is a consensus around "they," and we should be grateful. It is much, much better than "ze."

I'd even argue it's a win for so-called prescriptivists — those who prize the rules of language, as opposed to the fluidity of its usage.

If "they" becomes the agreed-upon pronoun for those who are not hes and shes, then we have a new and very useful rule.

And as someone who's often found rules comforting, this, too, is welcome.

Elegance will have to wait.

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MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION DIGITAL

Oscar stuns with lack of diversity

NOMINEES

No actors of colour get nods in major categories

As the dust begins to settle after the 2016 announcement, many fans' early-morning enthusiasm quickly turned to disappointment after not a single black actor was nominated. Actors of colour did not make it to the 20 award slots available in the best actor, best actress, best supporting actor and best supporting actress categories.

For the second year in a row, fans used the #OscarsSoWhite hashtag to voice their frustrations. "And the #Oscar goes to... somebody white. #OscarNoms," Twitter user Jamar Hooks wrote.

"The #Oscars this year looking a lot like a Trump rally. All White," Michael Skolnik commented.

Darnell Hunt is a sociology professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies, which releases a Hollywood Diversity Report annually. He said he was hardly surprised that actors of colour were left out of the Oscar nominations. The snubs, he said, reflect a lack of diversity within the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, which votes for the awards.

"Unfortunately, the nominations kind of reflect the state of the industry as it relates to diversity. We're talking about an Academy that's 93 per cent white, 76 per cent male, and average age 63," Hunt told Torstar News Service in a telephone interview Thursday.

This year's Oscars host is Chris Rock, who has regularly brought issues of racism and discrimination into his comedy. Rock did not comment on the #OscarsSoWhite criticism Thursday. Many said they hoped Rock would use his opening monologue to hold the Academy accountable.

Fans on social media wanted Idris Elba to be nominated for his role as an African warlord in Beasts of No Nation, for which he received BAFTA, SAG-AFTRA and Golden Globe nods.

Many were also upset at snubs of Will Smith for his part in Concussion and Michael B. Jordan, who starred in Creed, and that Puerto Rico-born Benicio Del Torro was also left out for his part in Sicario.

While NWA biopic Straight Outta Compton was nominated for best original screenplay — after being left out of the Golden Globes nominations — many on social media were quick to point out that the nominated screenwriters were actually white.

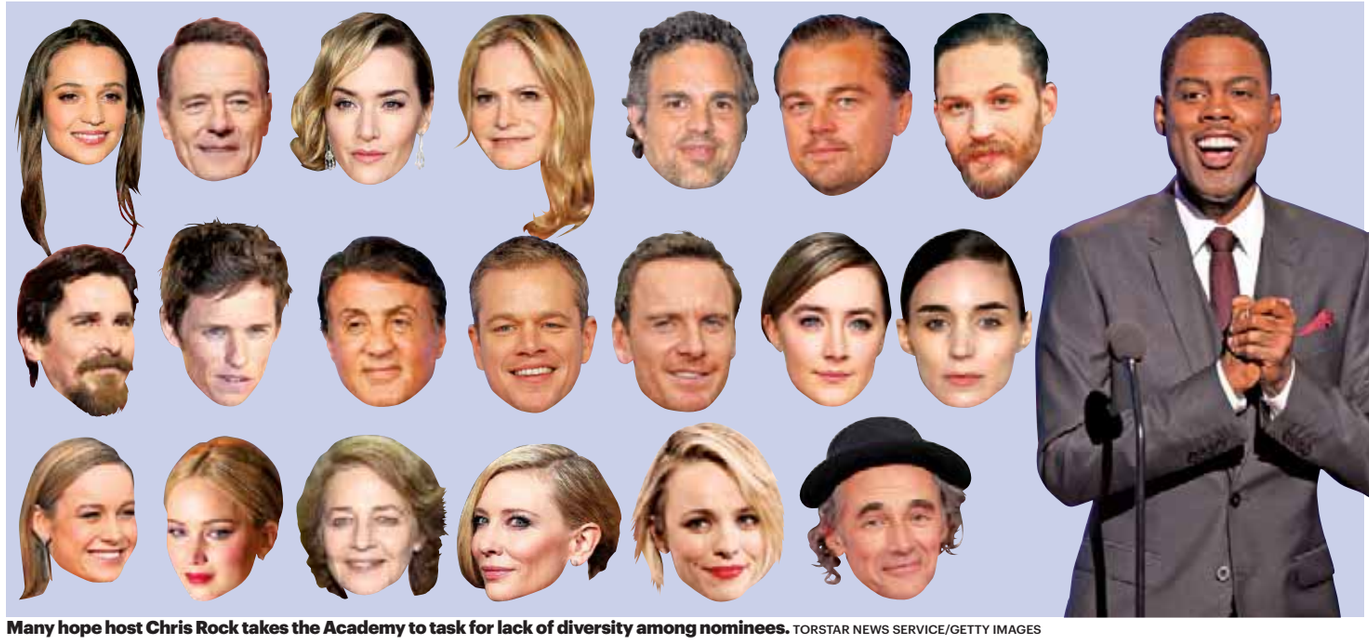
Hunt said awards like the Oscars set the standards for what the industry views as great films, and that in turn shapes "future decisions that are made about what projects will be green-lit, with what budgets, (and) with what stars.

"We're reproducing the same old exclusionary industry by only recognizing certain types of projects and that's a huge problem," he said.

A study last year at the University of Southern California found that film characters are still overwhelmingly white. Of the top 100 films in 2014, 73.1 per cent of characters were white. Black characters accounted for only 12.5 per cent of the ones on screen, compared to only 5.3 per cent for Asian and 4.9 per cent Hispanic characters.

Hunt said the industry needs to be restructured to better reflect U.S. society. That means diversifying membership in the Academy and among studio executives, as well as what roles are being offered to minority actors.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Many hope host Chris Rock takes the Academy to task for lack of diversity among nominees. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE/GETTY IMAGES

OSCARS

Canucks unapologetic about award nods

Montreal producer Pierre Even had a snappy response whenever anyone predicted he would see Academy Award nominations today for the film Brooklyn. "Never say that!" Even would say. "Nothing's for sure!"

But Even and Marie-Claude Poulin, co-producers on the film, were celebrating Oscar nominations Thursday morning for best picture, best actress (Saoirse Ronan) and best adapted screenplay (Nick Hornby).

Also in the running for best picture is Room, a Canada-Ireland co-production shot largely in Toronto and based on Emma Donoghue's novel of the same name. Brooklyn is a Canada-U.K.-Ireland co-production, in which Montreal stood in for Brooklyn during shooting.

"Best picture is something else," a clearly-excited Even said in a phone interview after watching a live stream of the Oscar nominations this morning. "I guess it means that people would return our phone calls now — I'm joking."

Even said the Oscar nominations show that Canadian crews can perform at the top levels of the movie industry.

"I'm very proud," Even said.

Donoghue was clearly elated by her nomination in the best adapted screenplay category, tweeting: "4 #OscarNoms for #RoomtheMovie, Best Picture, Best Director, Best Lead Actress, Best Adapted Screenplay, hard to type while shaking."

"It's just wonderful to see a fairly low-budget film, made mostly with state money, can do so well," said Donoghue from Nice, France.

The film won the People's Choice Award at the Toronto International Film Festival, where it began generating awards buzz.

Other Canadians named during the ceremony in Beverly Hills, Calif. included Rachel McAdams, who was nominated for best supporting actress in Spotlight.

The Weeknd was nominated for best original song for Earned It from the film Fifty Shades of Grey, along with fellow Canadians Ahmad Balshe, Jason (Daheala) Quenneville and Stephan Moccio.

Several other Canadians were nominated for their work on The Revenant, which picked up a leading 12 nominations. They include: set decorator Hamish Purdy of Vancouver, who received a production design nomination, Chris Duesterdiek for sound mixing and Cameron Waldbauer for visual effects.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canadian connections: Montreal stood in for Brooklyn, above; The Weeknd, Emma Donoghue and Rachel McAdams are all nominated. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE/GETTY IMAGES

THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

To properly annoy one's friends at an Oscar-viewing party, one needs to have a command of the slew of less consequential awards

THE GOLDEN GLOBE BOY: Leonardo DiCaprio

THE MEAL: Pasta and Leek Bake

During the run-up to Oscars (T-minus 44 days), I often feel like someone who did track in high school and suddenly finds themselves, 25 years later, about to run a marathon.

There's so much to watch, to get invested in, including heady dramas like Carol, Room and Spotlight. But the brain is flabby and unconditioned after several months of binge-watching Ladies of London (OMG have you seen this show?).

In order to properly train — and properly annoy one's friends at an Oscar-viewing party — one needs to have a command of the slew of less consequential awards that have already been handed out. Spotlight took home top honours at the Gotham Awards, for example, but the New York Film Critics Circle gave that to Carol. Meanwhile, Golden Globes went to The Revenant and The Martian for best drama and comedy respectively. And just to keep things really interesting, the National Board of Review deemed Mad Max: Fury Road the best film of 2016. But the Producers Guild Awards, on Jan. 23, are usually considered more useful in predicting what film will take home the 13-and-a-half-inch-tall Big One. And they didn't even nominate Room, which the Academy did on Thursday, but they did include Sicario, Straight Outta Compton, and Ex Machina, which the Academy didn't. Both shut out Carol.

Enough ink gets spilled in the warm-up that you'll be huffing and puffing come Feb. 28. Films take out ads in newspapers begging to be considered. Critics make predictions, which often include several titles you've never even heard of. For some, like The Hollywood Reporters' Scott Feinberg, Oscar watch is a full-time job, literally. For me, it just means I can't rewatch Step Brothers, written and directed by Adam McKay, because I feel like it. I should be watching his Oscar-nominated film The Big Short.

Or can I? Simon recently interrupted our Sunday morning quiet time, where we divide up the New York Times and sit with silence — and coffee — to inform me that A.O. Scott considers Step Brothers to be "a bona fide masterpiece."

We nodded, smug in the knowledge that we share a minority opinion with the paper's chief film critic. I bet we watch the comedy three times a year and always, without protest from either party, stop and rewind to a particularly magical bit of movie-making: "Do you like guacamole?" John C. Reilly asks. "Yes!" asserts Will Ferrell, just before Reilly crushes him after he leaps onto the top bunk of the beds they've constructed together.

And much like Oscar buzz isn't something you'd expect from a film by the same guy who wrote and directed Anchorman, I made something completely new for dinner — and from a new cookbook to boot: the pasta and leek bake from Simply Nigella. It required making a roux, which seems as easy as Meryl Streep doing an accent, but I can count on one hand the number of times I've prepared it successfully. That includes this attempt, which we enjoyed seconds of while pausing Step Brothers on all our favourite parts.

Dinner was a real winner, which no one could've predicted.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

FILM BRIEF

Mullally lands role in new Franco, Cranston film

Megan Mullally is set to star opposite James Franco and Bryan Cranston in the upcoming movie Why Him.

The film tells the story of a Midwestern father, Ned (played by Cranston), who discovers that his college student daughter is dating an Internet billionaire (played by Franco), leading to competition between the two.

Mullally, known for her roles as Karen Walker in Will & Grace and as Bev in 30 Rock, will play the part of Ned's wife Barb in the Fox comedy, Deadline reports.

Production on the movie is slated to begin in February this year. AFP

Megan Mullally GETTY IMAGES

mongrel

3 ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINATIONS
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SCREEN ACTORS GUILD AWARDS®
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5 WAYS THE MOB RULED THE '90S

Mob movies were everywhere in the 1990s. Throughout the decade, the genre went deeper and darker, with unforgettable characters and a believably ruthless underworld. Here are five reasons why '90s mob movies bury the rest:

1. Real low-lifes. Forget the overcooked buffet of Italian mob-boss movies from the '70s. The best gangster films of the '90s were fresh, chilling and based on real people. Donnie Brasco (1997) is based on the true story of an FBI agent who infiltrates a crime family from the ground up. In GoodFellas (1990), Ray Liotta plays the real-life Henry Hill, a street-smart kid who rises up the ranks before ratting on his mob family and disappearing into witness protection. No meeting of the five families here.

2. Joe Pesci. Who knew that a walking grenade could be so hilarious? With his characters — from Tommy DeVito in GoodFellas to Nicky Santoro in Casino — the pint-size Pesci keeps his friends, enemies and viewers on edge (and in stitches). No one is more dangerous. Or more funny.

3. Priceless lines. Movie dialogue in the '90s was an art, especially in gangster films. Some of these quotes were pearls of mobster wisdom, others are lines we still say today. Here's a snippet:

"Stuff that was stolen always tasted better than anything bought."
—Henry Hill (Ray Liotta), GoodFellas (1990)

"Fuhgetaboutit."
—Lefty Ruggiero (Al Pacino), Donnie Brasco (1997)

"Running a casino is like robbing a bank with no cops around."
—Ace Rothstein (Robert Deniro), Casino (1995)

"I'm funny how? Like a clown? I amuse you?"
—Tommy DeVito (Joe Pesci), GoodFellas

4. The return of Al Pacino. He broke out in the 1970s as Michael Corleone in The Godfather. But after playing just one gangster in the '80s (albeit in Scarface), he crushes the '90s with an expanded repertoire, showing that he could convincingly play any level of mobster — even the famously over-trusting 'mutt' in Donnie Brasco.

5. Martin Scorsese's realism. Brimming with real-life gangster stories from his hometown of New York City, Scorsese deep-sixed his competition with one brutally entertaining movie after another. "When I saw it on the streets, I said that's how it should be on film," he said of his 1990 classic GoodFellas. Without Scorsese, there's no Quentin Tarantino or Guy Ritchie.

Feeling like a gangster? Watch these mob masterpieces, and other '90s classics, on the Hollywood Suite 90s Movies channel. Hollywood Suite takes you back to the '70s, '80s, '90s and 2000s with hundreds of movies on 4 HDTV Channels, Hollywood Suite On Demand and the Hollywood Suite GO app. Subscribe today and get 2 months free OR 50% off the regular price of $6 or less per month*. Visit hollywoodsuite.ca.

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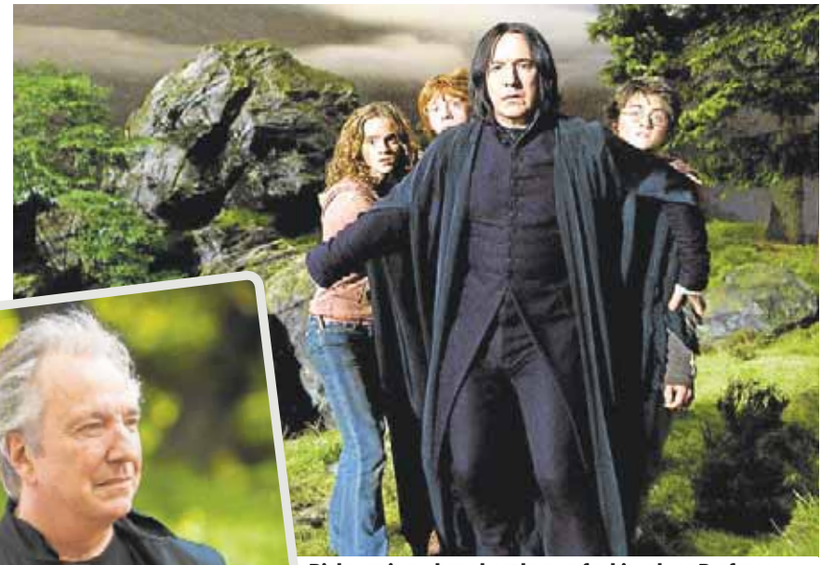
Goodbye our dear villain

OBITUARY

Alan Rickman, of Harry Potter and Die Hard, dies at age 69



Rickman is perhaps best known for his role as Professor Snape in Harry Potter (above). The British actor has died following a battle with cancer. HANDOUT; THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

British actor Alan Rickman, a classically-trained stage star and sensual screen villain in the Harry Potter saga and other films, has died. He was 69.

Rickman's family said Thursday that the actor had died after a battle with cancer.

Trained at the prestigious Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, Rickman was often cast as the bad guy; with his rich, languid voice he could invest evil with wicked, irresistible relish.

His breakout role was as scheming French aristocrat the Vicomte de Valmont in an acclaimed 1985 Royal Shakespeare Company production of Christopher Hampton's Les Liaisons Dangereuses.

Film roles included the psychopathic villain Hans Gruber in Die Hard in 1988; a deceased lover who consoles his bereaved partner in 1990's Truly Madly Deeply; the wicked Sheriff of Nottingham in Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves in 1991; and a wayward husband in 2003 romantic comedy Love Actually.

Millions know him from the Potter films, in which he played the portions and defence against the dark arts teacher Severus Snape, who was either a nemesis or an ally — possibly both — to the titular teenage wizard.

He appeared frequently onstage, earning Tony Award nominations for Les Liaisons Dangereuses in 1987 and Noel Coward's Private Lives in 2002.

Rickman was also a filmaker, directing and co-starring opposite Kate Winslet in 2014 costume drama A Little Chaos.

Frequently charming in person, Rickman was, by his own account, uncompromising as an actor. During the filming of Harry Potter, he maintained Snape's air of haughty disdain even off-camera.

"The animal in me takes over," Rickman said in 2011 when he appeared on Broadway in Theresa Rebeck's play Seminar. "You're as polite as possible, but it's not always possible."

Rickman is survived by his partner of 50 years, Rima Horton, whom he married recently. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OBITUARY

Dion's husband Angélil dies at age 73

René Angélil managed his wife Céline Dion's career for over 20 years. JOHN SHEARER/GETTY IMAGES

René Angélil, the entertainment maestro who guided Céline Dion to superstardom and then married her, has died, according to Francine Chaloult, a spokeswoman for Dion. He was 73.

Chaloult said Angélil died Thursday morning at his home in Las Vegas. He had been battling a recurrence of throat cancer. He had an initial surgery in April 1999, battled it successfully, but had to undergo another operation in December 2013.

While Dion and Angélil's entourage insisted he was doing well, Angélil stepped back from the day-to-day management of his megastar wife's career in June 2014. He turned it over to longtime friend Aldo Giampaolo, a noted impresario himself in Quebec, but remained involved in key decisions.

Dion and Angélil, who were 26 years apart in age, married in an elaborate ceremony in 1994 at Notre Dame Basilica in Montreal that drew throngs. Former prime minister Brian Mulroney was among the guests at the ceremony where Dion worn a glittering crystal headpiece.

Angélil and Dion have always been one of entertainment's power couples, owning lavish homes in the United States and Canada but the shrewd entertainment czar sprang from more humble roots.

Angélil was born in Montreal on Jan. 16, 1942, to a Syrian father and a Quebecois mother. He grew up in the city's northend Villeray district where he showed signs of his future career as he put on little shows for his neighbours. In 1981 he received an audio tape in the mail from Dion's mother, who encouraged him to "listen to it carefully. It's my 12-year-old daughter."

Struck by the voice of the young woman, Angélil quickly took her under his wing. He reportedly mortgaged his home to finance her first album.

Success came quickly and Angélil won Quebec's Felix Award as manager of the year in 1987 and 1988. He gave Dion an image makeover when she turned 18 and launched her first English-language album — Unison — in 1990, which established her as an international pop star.

World tours and megastardom followed under his guidance. Dion's most recent album, 2013's Loved Me Back to Life, topped the charts in Canada before reaching platinum certification four times over.

Dion and Angélil have three children — René-Charles, who was born in 2001 and twins Nelson and Eddy, who arrived in 2010. Angelil also had three children from his previous two marriages. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Acting tough under pressure

BENGHAZI

13 Hours' Pablo Schreiber on working with Michael Bay

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

John Krasinski and Pablo Schreiber star in Michael Bay's 13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi. CHRISTIAN BLACK/HANDOUT

Making a war movie is hard work, with long hours and tough conditions. According to 13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi star Pablo Schreiber, making a war movie with Michael Bay is extra difficult.

"Everyone who has worked with Michael Bay has told me the set can be a challenging place to work," he says of the Transformers director. "I got all these stories to prepare but ultimately nothing anybody says can prepare you for that experience. He works faster than any director working. We do about 75 set-ups a day, which is massive especially when each of them is like its own action sequence. It's an insane amount of work. He demands a lot from you. It's very necessary that you come prepared, that you are ready to perform any piece of the movie at any given time."

The Canadian born actor and winner of the We Love to Hate You Award at the 2014 Young Hollywood Awards for his work as George "Pornstache" Mendez on Orange Is the New Black, says Bay took him by surprise during the 2015 shoot in Malta.

"There's a scene at the end where a convoy is rolling in and we don't know if they are friendly or bad," he says, "and it is one of the emotional peaks of the movie. For me it was a scene I had checked off as an actor as one I had to be ready and prepared for. Then he shot it a week before we were supposed to shoot it. I had about five minutes to prepare. He said, 'Let's go on the roof and get that last sequence.' He started setting up cranes. To be ready at any moment for whatever he's going to throw at you is very important. As actors, all six of us ended leaving there feeling like if we had gotten through that experience we could deal with anything."

When I ask if the chaotic set conditions were Bay's way of not-so-subtly exposing his actors to the same kind of unpredictable situations their characters were dealing with, he laughed.

"I'm not sure how much forethought was put into that vibe, but it was definitely effective and it works. As actors we were constantly disoriented and didn't quite know where we were and didn't know where we were going to be on any given day."

Schreiber plays Kris "Tanto" Paronto, a former U.S. Army Ranger who was one of six CIA security contractors working in Benghazi, Libya on September 11, 2012, when well-armed Libyan militants — using weapons pilfered from former Prime Minister Muammar Gaddafi's abandoned arsenals — invaded the American embassy. Their attempt to rescue ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and Foreign Service Information officer Sean Smith led to a harrowing thirteen-hour battle.

The 37-year-old actor met Tanto and says he felt a great responsibility in playing a real person who was on set and would eventually see the film but adds that director Bay tried to keep show the humanity of the story's heroes.

"Michael Bay made this movie and he normally make these big extravaganzas but this is not a superhero movie," he says. "This is a movie about very, very real human beings who behaved extraordinarily under the most difficult circumstances."

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

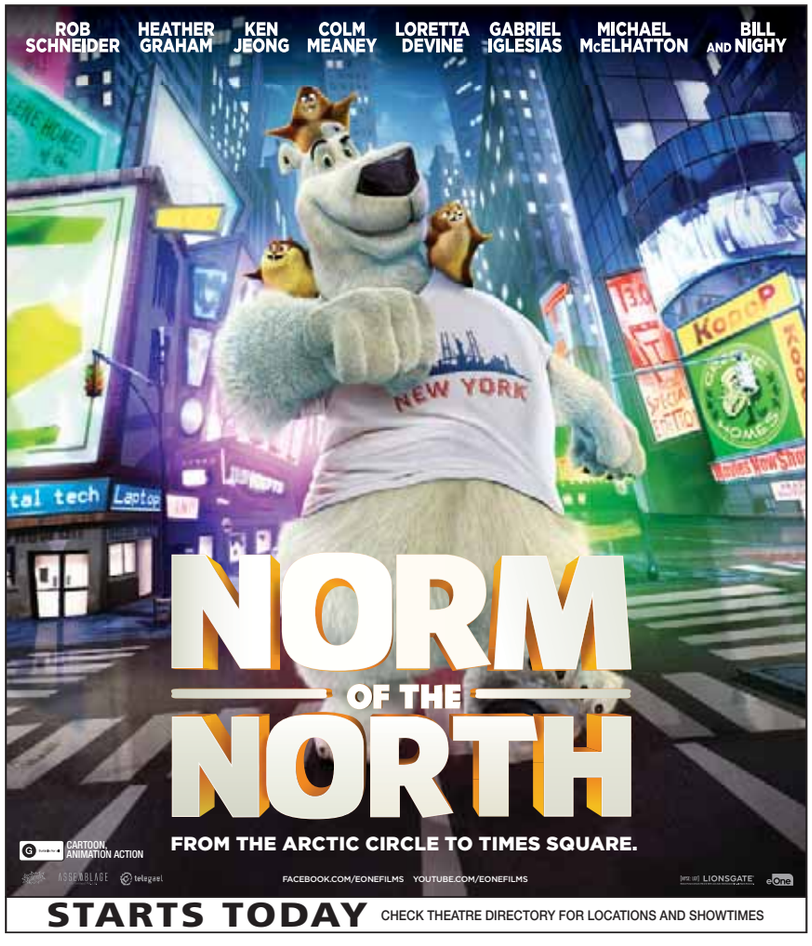
13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi ★★★

Ride Along 2 ★★★

Norm of the North ★

HOW RATING WORKS

SEE IT	★★★★
WORTHWHILE	★★★
UP TO YOU	★★
SKIP IT	★



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Feel good with a Blue Monday movie

PLEASURE SCENE

Hit up a cinema on the cheap and beat the January blahs

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

FEEL-GOOD FLICKS
Canada's top two comfort movies are Mrs. Doubtfire and Pretty Woman

Richard Gere and Julia Roberts in Pretty Woman. CONTRIBUTED

Feeling down? You're not alone.

Years ago Cliff Arnall, a tutor at the Centre for Lifelong Learning at Cardiff University, declared January to be the most depressing month of the year. "Following the initial thrill of New Year's celebrations and changing over a new leaf," Arnall said, "reality starts to sink in." His study cited weather, debt, time elapsed since Christmas, average hours of daylight and unsuccessful New Year's resolutions" as the reasons for the slump and named the third Monday of the month Blue Monday, the single most depressing day of the year.

There's no denying January can be dispiriting. This year Cineplex is offering up a way to beat the January blahs — cheap movies. On Jan. 18 Scene card members can redeem just 500 points to see any movie at Cineplex, from general admission auditoriums all the way up to the fancy-dancy VIP Cinemas.

Marston-Milbauer Eminent Scholar Emeritus at the University of Florida Dr. Norman Holland is an expert in psychoanalytic criticism and cognitive poetics, which in layman's terms means he has made a study of how our brains translate activities like going to the cinema into pleasure.

"It's restful, no question," he says.

"The parts of your brain that turn off are the parts that plan action because you're not going to act on what you see on the screen in front of you. You turn off the systems that plan, that look ahead that evaluate futures. That explains the phenomenon of the willing suspension of disbelief. You accept the most improbable things, like Stars Wars or Spider-Man."

"We don't want Ingmar Bergman on Blue Monday," says Holland. "The idea is to do something for yourself. Do something that pleases you."

Overall, according to Cineplex, Canada's top two comfort movies are the Robin Williams comedy Mrs. Doubtfire and Pretty Woman with Julia Roberts and Richard Gere. Men chose the uplifting prison break movie The Shawshank Redemption as their favourite feel good flick.

Now playing

ACTION/COMEDY

Norm of the North

Director: Trevor Wall
Starring: Rob Schneider, Heather Graham

A polar bear of many words, Norm's greatest gripe is simple: there is no room for tourists in the Arctic. But when a maniacal developer threatens to build luxury condos in his own backyard, Norm heads to New York City to stop it.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: NOT YET REVIEWED

Audience: +64%

ACTION & ADVENTURE

13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi

Director: J.J. Abrams
Starring: John Krasinski, Pablo Schreiber

The gripping true story of six elite ex-military operators assigned to protect the CIA who fought back against overwhelming odds when terrorists attacked a U.S. diplomatic compound on September 11, 2012.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: NOT YET REVIEWED

Audience: +94%

DRAMA

Mustang

Director: Deniz Gamze Ergüven
Starring: Günes Sensoy, Ayberk Pekcan

Early summer in a village in Northern Turkey. Five free-spirited teenaged sisters splash about on the beach with their male classmates. Though their games are merely innocent fun, a neighbor passes by and reports what she considers to be illicit behavior to the girls' family.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 98%

Audience: 88%

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Your essential daily news

Raise a toast: Parks Canada to waive 2017 entrance fees as part of Canada's 150th

VAWN HIMMELSBACH/FOR METRO

Praising Arizona

SCOTTSDALE

Active living is easy when the sun is shining

Vawn Himmelsbach
For Metro Canada

Scottsdale, Ariz., isn't just for your grandparents — it's come into its own as a top adventure destination. In a single day, you can challenge your quads on a double-black-diamond hike, learn how to rope a calf at a dude ranch and sample your way along the local ale trail.

It still has a cowboy vibe (it was dubbed the West's most Western town in the 1950s), but this former farming community has transformed itself into a base for outdoor adventure, along with a burgeoning culinary and craft beer scene.

Indeed, Scottsdale was named America's No. 2 foodie city in 2014 by Livability.com, thanks to its numerous farmers' markets and award-winning chefs — not to mention nearly 800 restaurants to choose from (don't miss dinner at FnB, where James Beard-nominated chef Charleen Badman whips up elevated vegetable creations, or an unbuckle-your-belt feast at Bryan's Black Mountain Barbeque with some of the best beef brisket in town).

Here's how to make the most of a trip to Scottsdale this winter:

Hiking, biking and climbing

The city's most prominent landmark is Camelback Mountain, shaped like a camel lying down.

With its sheer red cliffs, this 75.8-acre park is a favourite hiking and climbing spot for locals — its two summit trails are double-black-diamond hikes (in other words, not for beginners). It's worth waking up early and starting in the dark — you'll be rewarded with 360-degree views at the summit while you watch the sun rise over the Sonoran Desert.

The many parks and preserves in the area are ideal for hiking, mountain biking and rock climbing, particularly in the winter with temperatures averaging around 21 degrees C.

Craft beer

America's craft beer scene often brings Portland to mind, but Arizona is abuzz with microbreweries — and it's easy to experience what's on tap by walking, biking or taking the free trolley on Scottsdale's downtown ale trail. Don't miss Craft 64, with a rotating selection of 30 Arizona craft beers on tap such as the popular Four Peaks Kilt Lifter. And stop by Sip Coffee & Beer with 19 rotating craft beers on draft and coffee beans provided by local roaster Cartel Coffee Lab. Cartel also brews its own beers, including Coffee Brown, a nut-brown ale made with Cartel coffee beans.

Cowboy College

Scottsdale is home to luxury spas and high-end shopping, but here you can find a slice of the real west. So don't miss a chance to discover your inner cowboy and rope a calf (well, a roping dummy, anyway). The Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North offers a Cowboy for a Day package at Arizona Cowboy College, where you'll learn the ropes of horse handling and cattle driving — no easy-peasy trail rides and resort-style cookouts here.

LOONIE LOVE
The Loonie Love in Scottsdale campaign offers perks from partners keen on welcoming their neighbours from the north as the Canadian dollar drops in value.

The desert

In Scottsdale, you're always a stone's throw from a Saguaro cactus. But this desert is one of the most bio-diverse on the planet.

Learn more about it at the Desert Botanical Garden, a living museum that features 50,000 desert plants from around the world, with trailside exhibits and art exhibitions. Or, go off-road and get muddy on a Cactus Canyon Adventure with Pink Adventure Tour (yep, in pink jeeps), where learning about flora and fauna is actually fun.

Where to stay

Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain is a luxurious retreat featuring newly renovated ultra-chic mountainside casitas.

Its renowned Sanctuary Spa features an Asian-inspired menu of services; plus, there's yoga, pilates and spinning, along with five tennis courts and an outdoor lap pool. Celebrity chef Beau MacMillan whips up farm-fresh American fare at elements, its fine dining restaurant.

Or, retreat to the AAA Five Diamond Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North, with spacious casitas that open onto stunning desert scenery in the cooling foothills of Pinnacle Peak — plus, there's an award-winning spa and possibly the best craft cocktails in town.

SATURDAY: EXCLUSIVE

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Blue Jays president Mark Shapiro arrived just as the team finished its most successful season in decades. His job? Better it. Brendan Kennedy finds out what makes Shapiro tick. Tomorrow on the free news app from Toronto Star.

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How to save on sunny travel in 2016

ADVICE

Travel expert says timing is key for getting a great deal

When it comes to saving money on travel, when you go is as important as where you go.

We checked in with Mark Murphy, founder of TravelPulse.com, to find out the best destinations for warm weather getaways that won't break the bank, and the best times to book them.

Not surprisingly, Murphy, who also publishes two magazines geared towards travel agents and organizes the Travvy Awards (touted as the Oscars of the industry), suggests using an agent — but he had some pretty convincing reasons why.

Is Mexico calling to you? Cancun has great value right now, travel expert Mark Murphy says. ISTOCK

When to go

"The key if you're looking for great value is finding the gaps," Murphy says. "Between Thanksgiving and Christmas is one of the best times to travel because it's cheap. The resorts empty out, and they don't fill back up until the Christmas holiday. Right now is another great time to travel — you could have booked something for now for half the price as what you would have paid two weeks ago to travel over the holidays."

But that won't hold true for long. The next few months is the busy time for destinations like Mexico, Florida and the Caribbean, Murphy says. And then there's a drop off again: "Any warm weather destination will see a dramatic drop in pricing right after the Easter break, and especially in May — that tends to be a really soft month, so it's a great time to get away and have the same exact experience as someone who paid twice as much to go another time," he says.

Cancun isn't just for spring breakers

If you're looking for a beach destination, Cancun is one of the best values, Murphy says. And if you go with an all-inclusive resort, you'll know all your costs up front.

"People perceive the all-inclusive market as the way it was 10, 20 years ago, with buffets lines and things like that, but it's really evolved and gone into the luxury space," he says.

"One example at the high end is the five-star, all-inclusive resort Grand Velas in the Riviera Maya region — I sent people there who are big-time foodies, and they could not say enough good things about it."

Murphy also suggests the luxe Le Blanc, an all-inclusive adults-only property with butler service, or the Hyatt Ziva if you're bringing the whole family.

Don't go it alone

Murphy's pro tip? Hire a pro. All signs point to travel agents, once declared obsolete, making a comeback.

"The price you pay for doing all the work yourself is the same price you pay if you book through a travel agent. It's a myth that it's cheaper to book on your own," Murphy says.

In fact, it can be cheaper to use an agent: "The Marriott in Cancun, for example, will give you the same price no matter where you book, if it's the Marriott site or Expedia," he explains.

"But if you book with a travel agent, you might get an unpublished value-added offer (such as a dining credit) that is only available through an agent."

Not only can a travel agent score you savings, plus sift through the overload of information so you don't have to, they're also a resource if something goes wrong on the trip.

"If there's a problem with the hotel, you can call the agent and ask them to fix it," he says.

"So now you have an advocate who's going to deal with it."

RACHEL VIGODA/METRO IN NEW YORK

> **People perceive the all-inclusive market as the way it was 10, 20 years ago, with buffets lines and things like that, but it's really evolved**
>
> Mark Murphy, founder of TravelPulse.com

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TRAVEL NOTES SURF'S UP, SHANGHAI & REMOTE VIEWING

Women-only surf spas make waves

There's nothing new about surf tourism. But experts have noted an "explosion" of all-female surf retreats that offer surf classes as well as spa services. When the waves aren't breaking, for instance, guests can partake in oceanfront yoga, or relieve sore muscles with a massage. Likewise, hotels are recognizing surfing as a particularly effective form of fitness. AFP

Surfing spas are on the up and up. SHUTTERSTOCK

Disney to finally open Shanghai theme park in June

Disney's long-awaited theme park in China's commercial hub Shanghai will open on June 16. The $5.5 billion facility will feature everything from an Enchanted Storybook Castle — the tallest in any Disney park — to a Toy Story-themed hotel and a theater with a Chinese-language production of the Broadway hit The Lion King. But Walt Disney Co. also says the park will reflect China's own culture. AFP

Disney promises the park will reflect local culture. CONTRIBUTED

Adventure Cruise company offers trip to the end of earth

Adventure cruise company Oceanwide Expeditions, which specializes in excursions to polar regions, has a new expedition scheduled for 2017 taking travellers to the Ross Sea in Antarctica. This polar region is challenging to navigate, but it's a dream come true for intrepid adventurers looking to visit one of the most remote and extreme locations on Earth. AFP

The really, really remote Ross Sea. ISTOCK

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Huatulco, Mexico
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Memories Splash Punta Cana ★★★★PLUS
Punta Cana, D.R.
Deluxe Room • Feb 01, 04 & 08
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5 SAN FRAN CLASSICS TO UP YOUR FOOD GAME

San Francisco is a city that is serious about its food, and with the Super Bowl heading to nearby Santa Clara, the hungry hordes hankering for a taste of the local food scene won't be disappointed. Here's a guide to five foods and drinks San Francisco is famous for and where to find them. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

1 Crab

You can pick up a traditional crab cocktail at one of the many vendors lining **Fisherman's Wharf**. For a different take, try it roasted and served with garlic noodles at **Thanh Long** (4101 Judah St.). Like your crab crispy? Get it shelled, battered and deep-fried at the **R & G Lounge** in Chinatown (631 Kearny St.).

2 Beer

Anchor Brewing has a history that goes all the way back to 1849, when German brewer Gottlieb Brekle arrived with his family. You can get a first-person look at the brewery via tours available most days except holidays. The tours cost $15 per person, take about 90 minutes and conclude with a tasting. Reservations are required; you can make them here: anchorbrewing.com/brewery/tours.

3 Coffee

This is a fully caffeinated city with coffee shops on just about every block. Try **Ritual**, a pioneer in the craft caffeine movement. The flagship location is 1026 Valencia St. in the Mission District. **Blue Bottle**, which began across the bay in Oakland, has a spot in San Francisco's Ferry Building. And for a little extra kick, try the famous Irish Coffee at the **Buena Vista Cafe** in Fisherman's Wharf (2765 Hyde St.).

4 Oysters

Oysters on the half shell are a longstanding San Francisco tradition. For an elegant take with a great view of the Bay Bridge try **Waterbar** (399 The Embarcadero). Starting Jan. 30 dinner will be accompanied by a free light show with the return of the Bay Lights, a display that flashes nightly on the west span of the bridge. Also on the waterfront, **Hog Island Oyster Bar** in the Ferry Building.

5 Sourdough

The region's tradition of sourdough — bread leavened with a wild yeast starter or "mother" dough — dates back to the Gold Rush. **Boudin Bakery**, established in 1849 has a veritable shrine to sourdough at its Fisherman's Wharf location (160 Jefferson St). It includes a museum and demonstration bakery. Another good place to try this crusty creation is **Tartine Bakery** (600 Guerrero St.).

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PUNTA CANA
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metro SPORTS

Patrick Chan is adding a triple Axel to his long program, cranking up the difficulty in time for the Canadian championships in Halifax

OT part of London calling

NBA

Raptors take down Magic across the pond

THURSDAY In London

106	103
RAPTORS	MAGIC

The Toronto Raptors are becoming accustomed to putting in extra effort on their trans-Atlantic trips.

Kyle Lowry scored 24 points, Cory Joseph had 19 and the Raptors won their fourth straight game Thursday, holding off the Orlando Magic 106-103 before a sold-out crowd at London's O2 Arena.

"We've been in situations like this before," Lowry said of the tense finish. "We're not going to panic."

The last time the Raptors (25-15) visited London, back in March, 2011, they lost in triple overtime to the Nets, a see-saw game that saw DeMar DeRozan and former Raptors centre Andrea Bargnani both miss last-second shots.

This time, DeRozan had 13 points and 11 rebounds as the Raptors avenged a Nov. 6 loss in Orlando that spoiled Toronto's franchise-best 5-0 start.

"That's a well-coached team," Lowry said of the Magic. "They play so hard. We feel good to beat a team that's that good, that talented and that well-coached."

Seven Raptors reached double figures, with Jonas Valanciunas scoring 13, and Bismack Biyombo, Patrick Patterson and Luis Scola each getting 11.

Asked whether he'd suffered from jet-lag and fatigue, Lowry looked at the stat sheet and noted that he and DeRozan had combined to shoot 9-for-39, then crumpled the page and tossed it in a nearby trash can.

"No excuses," he said with a chuckle.

Joseph had no such issues, connecting on nine of 11 attempts. He said he enjoyed playing in front of the loud London fans.

"It was definitely a little bit different," Joseph said. "The atmosphere was great. It felt like a playoff game."

Victor Oladipo scored 27 points and Evan Fournier had 21 as Orlando (20-19) lost for the sixth time in seven games.

Two free throws by Lowry put Toronto up 105-100 with 43 seconds left in overtime, but Oladipo answered with a three-pointer.

After a missed shot by Lowry, he redeemed himself by stealing the ball from Oladipo and drawing a foul from Harris. Lowry made one of two, making it a three-point game.

Vucevic saw his last-second shot from halfcourt bounce off the rim, giving Toronto a hard-earned win.

The wild finish came after the Raptors gave up an 11-point lead in the final 7:34 of the fourth quarter, with Oladipo's jumper tying it at 96-96 with 32 seconds to go. THE CANADIAN PRESS

COACH DRAKE'S CELEB ALL-STARS

Drake was named coach of the upcoming all-star celebrity game on Thursday. His team will take on an American squad coached by comedian Kevin Hart on Feb. 12 at Ricoh Coliseum. Go to metronews.ca for the full rosters. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

The Raptors' DeMar DeRozan drives to the basket against the Magic on Thursday. GREGORY SHAMUS/NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES

MLS

Draft reunites Toronto players

The MLS SuperDraft unfolded beautifully Thursday for Toronto midfielder Richie Laryea.

After a series of deals reshuffled the top of the draft, the University of Akron sophomore went seventh overall to Orlando City where he will be reunited with friend and fellow Canuck Cyle Larin.

The two talked the day before the draft, keeping their fingers crossed that they could be roommates next season.

"It's amazing ... Cyle's been my best friend ever since I was nine," said Laryea, who just turned 21. "It's going to be good."

How emotional was Laryea when his name was called at the Baltimore Convention Center podium?

"I started crying a bit," he confessed. "Then my mom told me to man up."

Larin, the first overall pick in last year's draft, was named rookie of the year in 2015 after scoring a rookie-record 17 goals.

"Boom!! Congrats @RichieLaryea - see you in Orlando soon," Larin tweeted.

Chicago selected Wake Forest midfielder Jack Harrison with the top pick. The Fire then dealt him to New York City FC for allocation money and the fourth overall pick, which it used to take Stanford fullback Brandon Vincent.

Both players are highly touted. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

St. Louis fans sue Rams over move

Rams owner Stan Kroenke and others violated Missouri law by lying about their desire to keep the NFL team in St. Louis, according to a lawsuit filed by fans that seeks class-action status and unspecified damages.

The suit was filed Wednesday in St. Louis Circuit Court, one day after NFL owners voted to allow the Rams to relocate to suburban Los Angeles for next season.

Stan Kroenke THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The suit alleges that Kroenke and chief operating officer Kevin Demoff made false and misleading statements over the years indicating the team had no intention of leaving St. Louis, violating Missouri's Merchandising Practices Act. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Don't worry. It's just a game.

A letter from a Grade 1 student written to Vikings kicker Blair Walsh, pictured, who missed a playoff-game-winning field goal against the Seahawks last weekend.

SOCCER

Barca academy opening in town

Calling all future Lionel Messis, Luis Suarezs and Neymars — FC Barcelona is coming to town.

The board of directors for the Spanish soccer giants approved the creation of two new FC Barcelona academies Wednesday, one in Mississauga and the other in Edmonton.

The new academies — known as FCB schools — will accept 300 players and be the second and third of their kind in the country. Barcelona's first Canadian school opened at the Central Valley Sports Complex in Burnaby, B.C., last September.

Mississauga's academy will be housed at the Hershey Sports Centre and open in April.

The club will then have 19 FCB Schools on five continents. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TORONTO FC

Japanese midfielder snapped up 9th overall

Toronto FC selected University of Maryland midfielder Tsubasa Endoh ninth overall.

The 22-year-old was named MVP of the MLS Combine that preceded the draft but said he didn't expected to go until the second round.

"It's just incredible. I didn't see it coming," Endoh said.

The Japanese player is five-foot-seven and 141 pounds.

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RECIPE Deli Quesadillas

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Let's finish off the week easy, shall we? Stop by the deli counter on your way home and pick up some sliced meat and dinner will be halfway made.

Ready in
Prep time: 15 minutes
Serves 2

Ingredients
- 12 to 16 slices of roast turkey or deli turkey
- 2 apples, thinly sliced
- 50g white cheddar cheese, thinly sliced
- 4 whole wheat tortillas
- 2 teaspoon olive oil

Directions
1. Place a skillet over medium low heat and add 1/2 tsp of oil.

2. Place your tortillas in the pan. Arrange your cheese slices across one half of the tortilla. Then layer 1/4 of the apple slices and four slices of meat on top of that.

3. Cook until tortilla is beginning to brown on the outside and the cheese begins to melt. Fold the tortilla in half and flip to warm the other side, about 1 minute. Remove the quesadilla to a clean cutting board. Repeat until you have 4 quesadillas. Slice the quesadillas in triangles and serve with a salad.

If you're using these in a packed lunch. Allow them to cool before storing in an airtight container in the refrigerator. Reheat quesadillas in the morning and then pack in a thermal lunch container.

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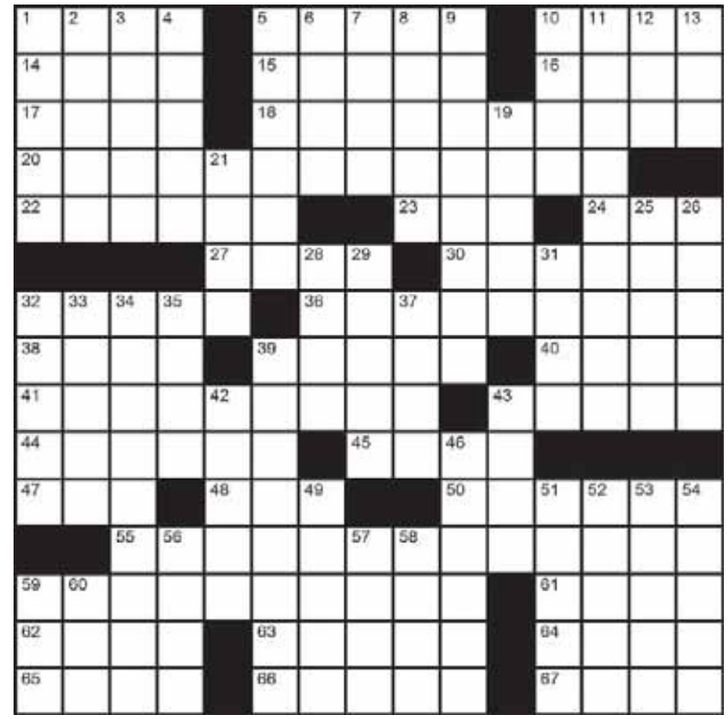
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Ms. Sommer
5. _ _ _ _ (Three multiple choice options)
10. New Zealand fruit
14. Grinding factory
15. Ms. Palin
16. Phoenix locale [abbr.]
17. Downright nasty
18. Kitchen backsplash choice: 2 wds.
20. Best Actress in a Movie Made for Television or _ _ _ (One of two categories in which Rachel McAdams is a Critics' Choice Awards nominee for this weekend's ceremony)
22. Company's experience-getter
23. Knock
24. 100 [abbr.]
27. American state
30. Casino card game gig
32. Analyze
36. Canadian pairs skaters Sale & Pelletier won 2002 Olympic gold for their performance to what movie theme music?: 2 wds.
38. Faux/artificial, briefly
39. Showbiz legend Ms. Day
40. _ Scotia
41. Moisturizer variety: 2 wds.
43. Wished
44. Egyptian Myth: Scarab-headed god
45. Medieval labourer
47. "Clumsy" band, briefly
48. Ms. Gardner
50. Prophet
55. The Guess Who song: 2 wds.
59. Big river in New Brunswick
61. Musician Mr. Puente
62. _ Sound, Ontario
63. Baronial
64. Smelly
65. Ernie's muppet friend
66. Rose parts
67. Network of nerves

DOWN
1. "My Kind of Love" singer Ms. Sande
2. "Easy _": 1972 Uriah Heep tune
3. Austrian painter, Gustav _ (b.1862 - d.1918)
4. Ms. Kemper of "Bridesmaids" (2011)
5. Acquiesce
6. Telecom speed unit
7. Royal symbols
8. More uncooked
9. Acting/guessing party game
10. "_ & Leopold" (2001)
11. It's an 'Eire-ea' of Newfoundland to explore on a scenic drive: 2 wds.
12. Mr. Wheaton
13. 'Final' suffix (Settle)
19. "Holy smokes!"
21. Honest
25. Boldness
26. Mythological tree nymph
28. Lotion ingredient
29. Greek Myth: Season goddesses
31. _ _ extra cost
32. Canadian actress, Cara _
33. Menotti opera, _ and the Night Visitors
34. The 'wrap' of a veggie wrap: 2 wds.
35. Footprint
37. Vitalities
39. Retro outdoor movie-going venues
42. Beach 'hermits'
43. Olympian queen
46. Nick of "The Deep" (1977), and surnamesakes
49. Specialized vocabulary
51. Character in 1997's "Titanic", John Jacob _ IV
52. Country in a 2010 mining rescue operation
53. Rolling Stones album: '_ _ Bleed'
54. Wear away
56. Laundry accumulation
57. Toothpaste holder
58. Movie
59. San Francisco's _ Hill
60. Female sheep

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
With Mercury in retrograde, you would be wise to think before you speak, especially on the work front. Weigh your words carefully. Do they really have to be said?

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You will get through chores, at home and at work, in record quick time today. You will also reach a decision about an offer you have been in two minds about taking.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Be very careful what you choose to believe today because the planets warn you will be open to negative propaganda. Anyone who tells you to follow their lead is not to be trusted. Listen to your inner voice.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Your powers of persuasion are usually very good but they may fail you today. You're trying too hard to convince others, and that makes them suspicious. Aim to be less forceful.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
People in positions of power will say good things about you today but don't think you can rest on your laurels. You have gone up in their estimation, but you must work even harder to maintain your position.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
As Mercury is linked to luck planet Jupiter today you'll get away with things today, but that's no excuse to behave badly. People will respect you more if you respect them.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There is no reason to hold back: give it all you've got and show the world what you are capable of. If you've been thinking about changing jobs or location now is the time to do it.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
In your hurry to get ahead don't forget that other people have feelings too. Be careful what you say to work colleagues today because if they feel you are being unfair they will turn against you.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Anyone who disagrees with you will wish they had kept their opinions to themselves. Mercury linked to Jupiter means you won't hesitate to point out their faults and failings.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Do what has to be done and worry about the consequences later. The results will speak for themselves, so pay no mind if your attitude upsets other people.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You can afford to be optimistic and you can afford to take risks. A money-making opportunity will come your way. Don't waste time thinking about it — take action!

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
If you are told something of a privileged nature you must keep it to yourself. With Mercury, planet of communication, linked to Jupiter, planet of excess, there is a danger you will let slip information.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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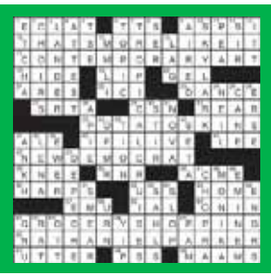

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